

Original Political Cartoon
Reconstruction, Industrial America, & The Gilded Age

Student Name: _____

Topic: _____

CATEGORY	1	2	3	4	Total
Historical Understanding	The cartoon has little or no connection to a historical era, or contains more than one historical inaccuracy.	The cartoon has a vague reference to the time period (but does not refer to any clear event or person).	The cartoon is basically historically accurate and refers generally to events or ideas relating to the overall period.	The cartoon clearly and accurately represents an event or idea from a specific moment in a specific time period.	
Clarity Of Message	The cartoon includes words and pictures, but the intent of the image is very difficult to discern.	The cartoon seems to suggest a "good" or a "bad" feeling, but the specific message is hazy or general.	The cartoon features some visual stories related to the time period, but they do not fit together in a unified whole.	The cartoon conveys a targeted, keen message that quickly and unambiguously lets the reader grasp the intent.	
Opinion Of The Cartoonist	The cartoon offers one or two visual elements, but it seems to be just a drawing, rather than a political cartoon.	The cartoon includes pictures or ideas from the time period but does not express a robust opinion or point of view.	The cartoon offers an opinion about the historical era, but the viewpoint is general or unclear or could be more compelling.	The cartoon expresses a clear, convincing, and insightful opinion about an event or idea from the historical ages.	
Visual Metaphor	The artist has drawn a completely literal picture, rather than a representative political cartoon.	The artist uses too many words to explain the intent, or graphics that are mostly literal rather than metaphorical.	The artist includes a fine attempt at metaphorical messaging, yet with some more straightforward elements.	The artist uses non-literal words & symbols, with nuance and sophistication to convey a metaphorical meaning.	
Originality	The design of the cartoon is taken directly from an existing work, or reveals a reluctance to apply appropriate originality.	The drawing of the cartoon is made by the student, but it is based on the designs or ideas of others.	Some of the message used in the cartoon reflects original thinking, while other elements are somewhat derivative.	The design and message reflect an exceptional degree of student creativity and originality in the imagination or display.	
Creativity	The visual choices included in the cartoon seem well-known and commonplace.	The visual choices are easily linked to similar images in the class, textbook, or other historical cartoons.	The visual choices are engaging and generally inspired, with perhaps some more familiar tones.	The visual choices are fresh and unexpected, with a lively interplay of innovative and expressive symbols.	
Mechanics	There are more than 2 errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.	There are 2 errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.	There is 1 error in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, or grammar.	Spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar are correct throughout the cartoon.	
On Time	The cartoon was handed in more than 2 days late.	The cartoon was handed in 2 days late.	The cartoon was handed in 1 day or 1 class period late.	The cartoon was handed in on time.	

Total: ____ / 32